

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1452

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FOR BURKE - ARA/LA/CAR

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, LA

SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER ISA TO WASHINGTON AND
HIS DESIRE TO DISCREETLY DISCUSS OFFSHORE TAX TREATY
WITH U.S. SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN

REF: LETTER TO J.R. BURKE - ARA/LA/CAR FROM LOFTON 8/10/73

1. DURING AN OFFICIAL CALL ON PRIME MINISTER R.J. ISA
BY FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS L. WADE LATHRAM AND ELDON B.
SMITH, AND MYSELF, PM ISA AGAIN STRESSED HIS GROWING CON-
CERN THAT U.S. TAX LAWS MIGHT BE AMENDED OR CHANGED IN
EARLY 1974 WITH THE RESULT THAT SUCH CHANGES WOULD TAKE
AWAY ABOUT \$12 MILLION OR 20 PERCENT OF THE GNA BUDGET
CURRENTLY OBTAINED FROM TAXATION OF U.S. OFFSHORE COMPANIES.

2. PM ISA FURTHER MENTIONED THAT THE GNA HAS RETAINED THE
LAW FIRM OF SILVERSTEIN & MULLINS OF WASHINGTON, D.C. TO
REPRESENT IT IN WASHINGTON IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE
MATTER.

3. PM ISA PLANS TO BE IN WASHINGTON FROM SEPTEMBER 20 TO
SEPTEMBER 24, 1973, FOR PURPOSE OF MEETING WITH GON FOREIGN
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MINISTER VAN DER STOEL WHO PM ISA SAYS WILL VISIT WASHINGTON

AT SAME TIME. WHILE PM ISA IS IN WASHINGTON ON THIS VISIT HE WISHES TO DISCREETLY MEET WITH CONCERNED U.S. SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN TO ENLIST THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE NA POSITION IN THIS OFFSHORE TAX MATTER.

COMMENT: AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, A NEW GOVERNMENT IS SCHEDULED TO BE FORMED BY SEPT. 28, 1973. AT THE PRESENT IT IS NOT KNOWN WHAT PART PM ISA WILL PLAY IN THAT NEW GOVERNMENT. HE HAS BEEN ELECTED TO THE STATEN AND IS LEADER OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF CURACAO. IF HE DOES NOT CONTINUE AS PRIME MINISTER HE WILL NO DOUBT PLAY A STRONG PART IN ANY NEW NA GOVERNMENT AND WHEN HE VISITS WASHINGTON WILL SURELY BE CLOTHED WITH AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE THIS MATTER. PM ISA IS A GOOD FRIEND OF THE U.S., AN EXCELLENT LAWYER AND HIGHLY RESPECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS AS PRIME MINISTER OF THE NA AND AS CHAIRMAN OF THE REALM INDEPENDENCE COMMITTEE. THE DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL'S PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED VIEWS OF THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THIS TAX REMITTANCE TO THE WELFARE OF THE GNA. THE CONGEN CONTINUES TO MOST STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT STATE AND TREASURY DO ALL POSSIBLE TO ASSIST THE GNA IN THIS MATTER.

IT WILL BE DEEPLY APPRECIATED IF THE DEPARTMENT WILL PROVIDE ITS VIEWS ASAP ON THE PM'S PROPOSED VISIT AND IF IT WILL BE IN A POSITION TO ASSIST HIM IN ARRANGING MEETINGS WITH KEY CONCERNED SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN.

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